



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

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Gray Davis
Governor

March 7, 2001

To: All Interested Parties

PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

On behalf of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) is soliciting data and information regarding water quality conditions in surface waters in this Region. The information gathered will be used in various assessments of the State's waters including the federal Clean Water Act Section 305(b) Report on Water Quality and the development of the federal Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List for submission to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Regarding the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List, the Regional Board will review data and information gathered and provide a recommendation to the SWRCB regarding which waters/conditions should be added to the 303(d) List. The SWRCB will consider the Regional Board's recommendation in developing the 303(d) List to submit to USEPA.

This version of the 303(d) List will include additional waters/conditions considered by the State to be impaired. "Impaired" refers to waters not attaining, or at risk of not attaining, water quality standards, after required technology-based water quality controls are in place. We have attached a description of the criteria that will be applied to the data/information provided through this solicitation to determine if a waterbody is impaired (Attachment One). The SWRCB is required (by federal regulations) to submit the 303(d) List to USEPA by April 2002. A description of the process and schedule for development of the final 303(d) List is as follows:

- The Regional Board must receive data and information as soon as possible, but **no later than May 15, 2001**;
- Regional Board staff will prepare a draft staff report, including a recommendation that contains the waters in Region 3 that should be added to the 303(d) List, and distribute it for public comment in mid-July;
- The Regional Board will hold a public hearing to consider the recommendation from staff, containing the waters in Region 3 that should be added to the 303(d) List and changes resulting from public comments, in October 2001;
- The SWRCB will review the recommendations from all the Regional Boards from October 2001 through March 2002; and
- The SWRCB will conduct a public process and a hearing, finalize the 303(d) List, and transmit it to USEPA in April 2002.

We are seeking to obtain all readily available data and assessment information generated since July 1997. For purposes of this solicitation, "information" is any documentation describing the current or anticipated water quality condition of a surface water body. We consider "data" to be

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a subset of information that consists of reports of measurements of specific environmental characteristics. The data and information may pertain to physical, chemical, and/or biological conditions of the regions waters or watersheds.

Anyone, including private citizens, public agencies, state and federal governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses possessing information regarding the quality of the Region's waters, may provide information.

Attached to this letter (Attachment Two) is a list of the information sources presently available to the Central Coast Regional Board. Please review this attachment to determine if you have information or data that we do not already have. Also the attachment indicates some specific requests for additional information/data.

Please submit your information in the format and with items described below:

- Two hard copies and an electronic copy of all information provided. For reports, Microsoft Word is the preferred software. Please specify the software used to format the information and provide definitions for any codes or abbreviations used.
- The name of the entity or person providing the information.
- Mailing address, phone numbers, and email addresses for a contact person that can answer questions about any of the information provided.
- Bibliographic citations for all information provided.
- If computer model outputs are included in the information, please provide bibliographic citations and specify any calibration and quality assurance information available.

Please submit your data in the format and with the items described below:

- Data in electronic form, in a spreadsheet, database or ASCII format. Please specify the format and define any codes or abbreviations used in your database.
- A description of, and reference for, your quality assurance procedures.
- Metadata for the field data, i.e., when measurements were taken, locations, number of samples, detection limits, etc.
- One, and if possible, two hard copies of the data, so that we can verify that we have accurately transferred the data to our database.
- For citizen volunteer water quality monitoring data:
 - Name of the group;
 - Indication of any training in water quality assessment completed by members of your group;

Data and information should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than **May 15, 2001**. Data or information received after May 15, 2001 will not be considered in developing the April 2002 report to US EPA required by Clean Water Act Section 303(d).



Please send any information and data you wish to provide to:

Angela G. Carpenter
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(acarpent@rb3.swrcb.ca.gov)
Fax: (805) 543-0397

You may also contact Angela G. Carpenter for any of the following:

1. to receive any future announcements, information, or reports related to this process (you may also subscribe to the mailing list at our website located at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3. (Please click on “subscribe to electronic mailing lists.”);
2. to request a copy of the mailing list for this letter;
3. to notify us of other interested parties and contact information for them; and/or
4. if you have questions regarding information or data you wish to submit.

If you have other questions about this process or about information or data you wish to submit, you may also contact Lisa McCann at (805) 549-3132 (lmccann@rb3.swrcb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

ROGER W. BRIGGS
Executive Officer

Attachments:

Attachment One: 303(d) Listing Criteria

Attachment Two: Information Sources Currently Available



ATTACHMENT ONE

303(d) Listing Criteria

1. Effluent limitations or other pollution control requirements [e.g., Best Management Practices (BMPs)] are not stringent enough to assure protection of beneficial uses and attainment of SWRCB and RWQCB objectives, including those implementing SWRCB Resolution Number 68-16 "Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality of Waters in California."
2. Fishing, drinking water, or swimming advisory currently in effect. This does not apply to advisories related to discharge in violation of existing Waste Discharge Requirements or NPDES permit.
3. Beneficial uses are impaired or are expected to be impaired within the listing cycle (i.e. in next two years). Impairment is based upon evaluation of chemical, physical, or biological integrity. Impairment will be determined by "qualitative assessment", physical/chemical monitoring, bioassay tests, and/or other biological monitoring. Applicable Federal criteria and RWQCB Water Quality Control Plans determine the basis for impairment status.
4. The water body is on the previous 303(d) list and either: (a) "monitored assessment" continues to demonstrate a violation of objective(s) or (b) "monitored assessment" has not been performed.
5. Data indicate tissue concentrations in consumable body parts of fish or shellfish exceed applicable tissue criteria or guidelines. Such criteria or guidelines may include SWRCB Maximum Tissue Residue Level values, FDA Action Levels, NAS Guidelines, and U.S. EPA tissue criteria for the protection of wildlife as they become available.
6. The water quality is of such concern that the RWQCB determines the water body needs to be afforded a level of protection offered by a 303(d) listing.



ATTACHMENT TWO

INFORMATION SOURCES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Monitoring Programs

Bay Protection and Toxic Cleanup Program
Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP)
Marine Research Specialists and Tenera sampling reports for Morro Bay, December 1995
Morro Bay National Monitoring Program Data
Morro Bay Sediment Sampling in Support of Maintenance Dredging, Marine Research Specialists, May 1999
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and Waste Discharge Requirement monitoring data
Regional Board water quality sampling prior to CCAMP
Regional Board water quality observations of erosion/sedimentation and eutrophication
San Luis Obispo Land Conservancy data
Santa Cruz County Environmental Health bacteria and nitrogen sampling
State Department of Health Services pathogen data for Goleta Slough and Morro Bay
State Mussel Watch Program
Toxic Substances Monitoring Program
Waddell Creek Survey, Bill Jons, Ca. Department of Fish and Game, 1980
Water quality Surveys by Jennifer Nelson, Ca. Department of Fish and Game

Reports¹

Analysis of Sediments from City of Morro Bay Mooring Area A-1 Maintenance Dredging Project, Tenera, January 1996
An Evaluation of the Fishery Resources of the Pajaro River Basin, California Department of Fish and Game, June 17, 1968
A Review of Water Quality Standards for the San Lorenzo and Salinas Rivers, Ca. Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1981
Aquatic Toxicity in the Pajaro River Watershed: Tributary Sources and Chemicals of Concern, Hunt, et al 1998
Aquatic Vegetation Management Options for Schwan Lake, Lars Anderson, 1993
Carneros Creek Association Elkhorn Slough Project, Resources Conservation District, March 2000
Carpinteria Marsh Enhancement Project Water Quality Study Initial Report, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, May, 1986
Clean Water Quality Management Plan for the Monterey Bay Region, AMBAG, 1978
Clean Lakes Assistance Program for Lake Nacimiento, Coastal Resource Institute, California Polytechnic State University, March 1993
Clear Creek Management Area Water Quality Monitoring Narrative Report, Dynamac Corp, 1998
Consolidated Toxic Hot Spot Cleanup Plan, State Water Resources Control Board, 1997



Data Evaluation Report and Monitoring Framework for the Elkhorn Slough Watershed (draft), California Coastal Commission, January 1995
Elkhorn Slough Conservation Plan, Scharffenberger Land Planning & Design, July 2, 1999
Erosion and Sediment Study, Morro Bay Watershed, USDA Soil Conservation Service, September 1989

Inactive Metal Mines in Four San Luis Obispo County Watersheds Surface Water Quality Impacts and Remedial Options, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, June 1999
Morro Bay Bacteria Study 1986-87, Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1987
Morro Bay National Estuary Program: A Characterization, Volume II, Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, July 2000
Morro Bay Watershed Enhancement Plan, USDA Soil Conservation Service, 1989
Non-point Source Evaluation for Shellfish Contamination in the Santa Barbara Channel, Ca. Regional Water Quality Control Board, 1992
Nutrient Objectives and Best Management Practices for San Luis Obispo Creek, Coastal Resources Institute, California Polytechnic State University, May 1994
Pajaro River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan, June 1999, Applied Science and Engineering, Inc
Qualitative and Quantitative Analyses of Degradation of the San Benito River, Golder Associates, Inc, 1997
Rider Creek Sediment Management Plan, Santa Cruz County, Ca., WRC-Environmental 1991
Salinas Basin Investigation, Bulletin 52, California Department of Public Works, Division of Water Resources, 1946
Sanitary Survey Report for Morro Bay, DHS, 1996
Sedimentation Processes In Morro Bay, California, Prepared for Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District and California Coastal Conservancy by Philip Williams and Associates, San Francisco. Haltiner, J. 1988
Source of Metal Contamination Within the Seafloor Sediments of Northern Estero Bay, City of Morro Bay and Cayucos Sanitary District, October 2000
South County Regional Wastewater Discharge Evaluation, James Montgomery Engineering, 1993
Surface Water Degradation by Inactive Metal Mines in Northwest San Luis Obispo County, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, December 1993
The Establishment of Nutrient Objectives, Sources, Impacts, and Best Management Practices for the Pajaro River and Llagas Creek, San Jose State University, 1994
The Impact of Agricultural Return Flows on Surface Water Quality in the Monterey Bay Area, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, 1981
The San Lorenzo River Watershed Management Plan, Santa Cruz County Planning Department, December 1979
Water Resources Management Plan for Watsonville Slough System Santa Cruz County, Questa Engineering Corporation, Nov 6, 1995

1) Many of the references contained within these reports are also currently available.



Other Indications of Beneficial Use Impairment

DHS Shellfish Harvesting Advisory at Elkhorn Slough

DHS Shellfish Harvesting Advisory at Morro Bay

Nacimientto Fish Advisory Posting

Santa Barbara County Beach Closure Postings for Pacific Ocean at Arroyo Burro Creek(1997-98)

Santa Barbara County Beach Closure Postings for Point Rincon (1997-98)

Data We Are Seeking

AB411 Pathogen Monitoring Data

Beach Closure Information

Local Agency Monitoring Data

